

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20, and 25-27 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 10, and 12 have been amended herein. Applicants believe no additional fee is due at this time.

The Examiner has found allowable subject matter and prosecution on the merits is closed subject to handling formal matters according to *Ex parte Quayle*. Applicants appreciate the Examiners attention and responsiveness in dealing with the present application.

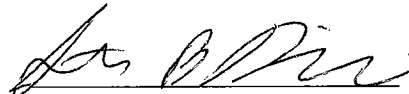
The Examiner has objected to claims 9, 10, and 12 because of the recitation of "A computer program product," which the Examiner contends renders these claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, claims 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to recite, "A computer-readable medium," in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

Applicants believe they have dealt with the informalities raised by the Examiner. Applicants further submit that claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 20, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance and notice of such is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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